

# Great Lakes Bulletin

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## Naval Station Great Lakes Participates in Citadel Shield-Solid Curtain 2021

*Story by MC2 Brigitte Johnston, Naval Station Great Lakes Public Affairs*



Navy installations across the country are participating in an annual two-week force protection exercise, Feb. 1-12.

Exercise Citadel Shield-Solid Curtain 2021 is conducted by Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Commander, Navy Installations Command on all Navy installations in the continental U.S., including Naval Station Great Lakes.

On Feb. 2, the NSGL installation training team, led by Installation Training Officer Mark Wegge, conducted an active shooter drill that evaluated information dissemination, individual response plans, security force response, and the ability to coordinate with local emergency responders and the community. A simulated gate runner charged the gate to Bldg. 1 wherein a simulated hostage situation involving the commanding officer, Capt. Ray Leung, took place. Naval Security Forces and Great Lakes

Police used negotiation techniques to bring the simulated suspect to surrender.

"This scenario was a good opportunity for our security team to practice how to respond to an active shooter situation," said Leung. "Our security forces responded exactly as they were trained. Our goal is to be ready for anything."

The local community was informed prior to the exercise, warning of traffic, sirens, and other possible minor disturbances that could affect the area. The use of outdoor warning sirens is used in lockdown procedures to inform the base to lock down or shelter in place.

"We used all the tools for warning the base that we have at our disposal," said Willie Ramsey, NSGL's emergency management officer. "Using AtHoc messaging and Giant Voice prepares Great Lakes and the surrounding community for a real world situation."



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During the exercise, the training team and participants exercised COVID-19 protection measures such as masks and limiting to people in each space to only those necessary. “Training opportunities throughout the pandemic have been challenging, but not impossible to execute,” said Wegge. “Through thorough planning, Great Lakes was able to create a safe training environment despite the challenges caused by COVID-19.”

Exercise Citadel Shield-Solid Curtain 2021 is a regularly scheduled exercise that reinforces the need for everyone to maintain a force protection mindset and a readiness to respond to threats. We encourage personnel to remain aware of their surroundings throughout the exercise and to not assume that any suspicious activity is part of the exercise. Community members are asked to report any suspicious activity to Great Lakes Police at (847) 688-5555 for non-emergencies and to call 911 for emergencies.

For updates during the exercise, visit the base’s Facebook account at [www.facebook.com/NavalStationGreatLakes](http://www.facebook.com/NavalStationGreatLakes), and the base’s Twitter account at [twitter.com/navstaglakes](http://twitter.com/navstaglakes).

For imagery from the exercise, please visit <https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/cssc21>

## **Navy Shifts 2021 Fitness Cycle to July**

*Story by MC1 Mark D. Faram, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs*



The Navy is shifting the dates of the single, six-month physical fitness assessment cycle during calendar year 2021 to July 1 through December 31, to continue to mitigate COVID-19 impacts to the fleet.

The single 2021 cycle was initially announced in November’s NAVADMIN 304/20 and was originally scheduled for March 1 through Sept. 30. That message is now cancelled and replaced by NAVADMIN 024/21, which shifts the dates between July 1 and December 31.

The new message was released on Jan. 27.

“Shifting the PFA cycle to July allows the Navy to execute the PFA after the primary influenza season while allowing time for COVID-19 vaccines to be more widely distributed,” Vice Adm. John B Nowell, Jr., the chief of naval personnel, wrote in the message.

COVID-19 prevention efforts resulted in the cancellation of both of 2020’s semi-annual Physical Fitness Assessments. Out of an abundance of caution, the Navy decided to proceed with a single cycle for 2021 as the COVID pandemic is showing no signs of abating yet.

The Department of Defense has long mandated all services conduct annual fitness testing. That mandate for fitness testing means that no exemptions will be allowed for those who scored excellent or above from the previous 2019 cycle. However, going forward, those who score excellent or outstanding on the 2021 PFA will be exempt from participation in the first PFA cycle of 2022.

A new Physical Readiness Program Guide 15 has been produced outlining

just how to conduct all testing to mitigate the possibility of spreading the COVID-19 virus. It is now available for download on the Physical Readiness Program Website.

Twice annual testing cycles are expected to resume as permitted and it is hoped that will happen during calendar year 2022.

What's not changing is the cycle's big updates to the Physical Readiness Test (PRT). The rollout of the forearm plank, which will replace the curl-up as a test of core strength, and the introduction of the 2000-meter row as a new optional cardio event, will go on as planned.

The 2021 cycle will also be the first for data entry into the new Physical Readiness Information Management System 2 (PRIMS 2). The Navy is currently migrating the legacy PRIMS data to the new system's database as part of MyNavy HR transformation

efforts. This new system will bring the data management for the PFA into the 21st century and also make the process easier for CFLs.

The migration means that all commands will need to provide up-to-date Command Fitness Leader Certification in the new system. Training for commands on the new system is expected to start sometime in February and all command leaders requiring read only access will be able to request their access "in the March timeframe," the message said.

More information, including guides for conducting a COVID-19 safe fitness test along with initial performance standards for scoring the forearm plank and 2000-meter row are available to both individuals and command fitness leaders on the Navy Physical Readiness Program website at [https://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/21st\\_Century\\_Sailor/physical/Pages/default2.aspx](https://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/21st_Century_Sailor/physical/Pages/default2.aspx).

# Biden Administration Overturns Transgender Exclusion Policy

*Story by Jim Garamone, DoD News*

President Joseph R. Biden signed an executive order overturning the previous administration's ban on the service of transgender individuals in the military.

"America is stronger, at home and around the world, when it is inclusive," states a White House news release. "The military is no exception."

The order affects the Defense Department and the Department of Homeland Security for actions with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III fully supports President Biden's decision. In a written statement he said that all transgender individuals "who wish to serve in the United States military and can meet the appropriate standards shall be able to do so openly and free from discrimination."

The secretary insisted the change is not only the right thing to do, but also the smart thing. In this, he echoed the White House statement that "the all-volunteer force thrives when it is composed of diverse Americans who can meet the rigorous standards for military service, and an inclusive military strengthens our national security."

"The United States armed forces are in the business of defending our fellow citizens from our enemies, foreign and domestic," Austin said. "I believe we accomplish that mission more effectively when we represent all our fellow citizens. I also believe we should avail ourselves of the best possible talent in our population, regardless of gender identity. We would be rendering ourselves less fit to the task if we excluded from our ranks people who meet our standards and who have the skills and the devotion to serve

in uniform."

The secretary told the military departments to immediately ensure individuals who identify as transgender are eligible to enter and serve in their self-identified gender.

In the order, Biden directed the defense secretary and the secretary of homeland security to ensure that all directives, orders, regulations and policies of their respective departments are consistent with the new order. "This means no one will be separated or discharged, or denied reenlistment, solely on the basis of gender identity," the White House news release said. "Prospective recruits may serve in their self-identified gender when they have met the appropriate standards for accession into the military services." The policy also ensures all medically-necessary transition related care authorized by law is available to all service members.

The executive order also immediately prohibits "involuntary separations, discharges and denials of reenlistment or continuation of service on the basis of gender identity. It also calls for an immediate start to the identification and examination of the records of service members who have been involuntarily separated, discharged or denied reenlistment or continuation of service on the basis of gender identity. It provides for the correction of military records.

"Over the next 60 days, I look forward to working with the senior civilian and military leaders of the department as we expeditiously develop the appropriate policies and procedures to implement these changes," Austin wrote.



# Naval Station Great Lakes

## Non-Supervisory Civilian of the Year: Kristyan Chellman

Kristyan Chellman, from Wauconda, Illinois, was named Non-supervisor Civilian of the Year for Great Lakes. Chellman works for the Child and Youth Program Child Development Center 2700 as the training and curriculum specialist.

"[I feel] very grateful & honored!" said Chellman when asked how it feels to be recognized with this award.

Chellman has a Bachelor's in elementary and early childhood education and a Master's degree in education with a focus in reading. She has worked with the Great Lakes team for nearly 11 years training and mentoring caregivers who work in the early childhood classrooms. Her main responsibilities are to orient new staff and provide ongoing professional development opportunities to existing staff. Developing the caregivers in turn helps the success and development of the children they interact with that range from ages of six weeks old to five years old.

"My position is unique in the Early Childhood world and I have loved it since my very first day at CDC 2700 in 2010," said Chellman. "I am fortunate to have an amazing mentor in my boss, Jenee Barnett, and a strong CYP team as a whole who inspire me every day!"



## Junior Sailor of the Year: YN1 Lacey Krecko

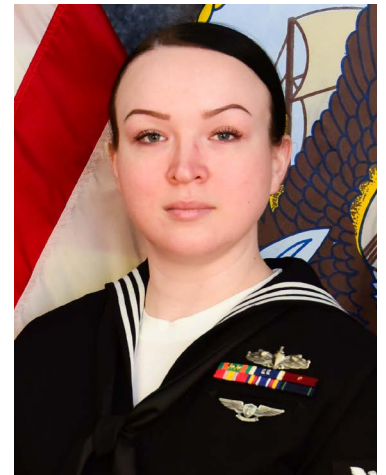
Yeoman 1st Class Lacey Krecko, from Philadelphia, was named Junior Sailor of the Year for Great Lakes. Krecko works as the departmental leading petty officer for Great Lakes' administrative department. She has been in the Navy for over six years and aboard Great Lakes for over two years.

"I feel extremely honored to be recognized as NSGL's Junior Sailor of the Year FY20," said Krecko. "It will always be a blessing to be recognized for the hard work you do, day in and day out."

Krecko leads three Sailors in her department as they produce executive correspondence, awards, evaluations, and more. She is responsible for tracking personnel readiness for over 100 Sailors' transfers, reporting, separations, and retirements. Krecko also processes pay and personnel transactions, manages family care plans, and manages the command's annual budget.

"My favorite part is being a part of one huge family," said Krecko. "Everywhere you go, you meet new people and visit new places. I love being able to connect with different people and build life-long friendships."

"I am blessed to be under great leadership, teaching me how to be a better Sailor and I am forever thankful to have that mentorship and be able to serve here during the last few years. I am just over the moon with being selected as [Junior Sailor of the Year]!"



## Sailor of the Year: RP1 Austin Sims



Religious Programs Specialist 1st Class Austin Sims, from Carmel, Indiana, was named Sailor of the Year for Great Lakes. Sims is Great Lakes' religious ministries department leading petty officer. He has been in the Navy for ten years and aboard Great Lakes for over two years.

"I think it's always important to recognize Sailors and staff for their hard work," said Sims. "The entire Naval Station Great Lakes team does a lot of phenomenal work day in and day out, and the work that culminated in my selection as Sailor of the Year is a direct reflection of my entire team. It's an achievement that would not be possible without every single Sailor and civilian I serve alongside," said Sims.

Sims office manages the programs and budgets for the Recruit Memorial Chapel, Bluejacket Memorial Chapel, and Forrestal Village Chapel. In addition, they identify and support the mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of Sailors assigned to the command. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been supporting mission-critical capabilities such as the quarantine barracks, Commissary, NEX, USO and Armed Services Blood Program.

"I really enjoy helping the Sailors and Marines I serve alongside as [a religious programs specialist]," said Sims. "[Religious programs specialists] also have a very unique relationship with chaplains that is unlike any other enlisted or officer dynamic in the Navy. We directly support our chaplains and manage, support, and execute the command religious program. We are combatants, and provide force protection for chaplains, who are non-combatants, in times of war and during disaster relief efforts."

"It's an absolute honor to be selected as the Sailor of the Year," said Sims.

# Austin Orders Military Stand Down to Address Challenge of Extremism in the Ranks

Story by Jim Garamone, DoD News



Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III has ordered a DOD-wide stand down to discuss the problem of extremism in the ranks, Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby said today.

Austin and Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met with service civilian leaders and service chiefs to discuss the problem of extremism. Kirby noted that some of the extremists who stormed the U.S. Capitol on January 6 were active duty service members and others were military veterans.

Kirby was quick to say that “the vast majority of men and women who serve in uniform and the military are doing so with honor, integrity and character, and do not espouse the sorts of beliefs that lead to the kind of conduct that can be so detrimental to good order and discipline and in fact is criminal.”

Still, Austin said in the meeting with military leaders that while the numbers may be small, they are not as small as anyone would like. “No matter what it is, it is ... not an insignificant problem and has to be addressed,” Kirby said during a press gaggle in the Pentagon.

The stand down will occur over the next 60 days, Kirby said. This is so “each service, each command and each unit can take the time out to have these needed discussions with the men and women of the force,” he said.

There is much that needs to be hammered out including the details of the training that will go along with the stand down and what the secretary and all in the military want to accomplish. The stand down is similar to safety stand downs that units may have, Kirby said.

Austin called extremism in the ranks a leadership issue, and “it’s got to be a leadership issue down to the lowest levels, small unit leadership all the way up to him,” Kirby said. “So if you consider it a leadership issue, then maybe there will be some potential solutions there to allow us greater visibility.”

This is a thorny problem, one that has raised its head in the past. There is a DOD Instruction aimed at this very problem — DODI 1325.06 “Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces.”

The DOD Instruction expressly prohibits military personnel from actively advocating for and participating in supremacist, extremist or criminal gang doctrine, ideology or causes, Kirby said. There are questions that need to be answered, like what constitutes extremist activity? What is permissible in looking for extremists in the ranks?

In the meeting today, Austin made it clear that he is still mulling over how he wants to organize the effort to attack the problem from an institutional perspective, the press secretary said.

The secretary may establish a task force to get after the problem or perhaps another way. “He hasn’t ruled anything in or out,” Kirby said.

**Fleet and Family Support Center** is now open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., for most services.

The **USO** and **MWR** are either closed or providing limited services until further notice. For any questions regarding upcoming events, classes, or other concerns, please contact the appropriate organization.

## Thank you!



Visit [www.navywmrgreatlakes.com](http://www.navywmrgreatlakes.com)  
for more information



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[www.cnmc.navy.mil/navylifema](http://www.cnmc.navy.mil/navylifema)



# Lovell FHCC builds new drive-thru COVID-19 testing facility

*Story by MCSA Minh Thy Chu, Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center Public Affairs*

Inspired by pandemic challenges, Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center has built a new drive-thru facility for medical procedures at Building 33.

The largest construction project ever completed by Lovell FHCC personnel, the new structure on the hospital's North Chicago campus allows Lovell FHCC providers to test, vaccinate, and provide other types of care to patients in their vehicles. This minimizes exposure to people and surfaces that can potentially spread COVID-19, influenza and other infectious diseases. Ultimately planned to provide drive-thru vaccinations to Lovell FHCC patients, COVID-19 surveillance swabbing of Recruit Division Commanders has already been moved to the new structure.

"One of the things Building 33 does is allow for maximum social distancing," said Lovell FHCC Assistant Director of Plans and Operations, Kathleen Kennedy.

Prior to the completion of this testing facility, Lovell FHCC staff members were providing swab tests for personnel from Great Lakes tenant commands from a tent set up on the Lovell FHCC campus. The staff administered about 200 tests one to two times a week.

"Even though the tent was a great asset, I think giving our staff an enclosed structure with lights, heat, and tables has really benefited our team doing this testing," Kennedy said. Since it was established in 2010, Lovell FHCC is the nation's first federal health care center, integrating Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs medical and other services in North Chicago, Illinois, Lovell FHCC's integrated mission of caring for military, military dependent and veteran patients is best captured through the motto, "Readying Warriors, Caring for Heroes."

"Building 33 is a great example of integration," said Kennedy. "We were able to use in-house personnel, and we had a mission - primarily the testing for RTC and NTC - that really drove that building."

The construction of Building 33 began in September 2020 and was completed by mid-December. Michael McCullough, Lovell FHCC carpenter shop supervisor, and his shop workers logged close to 3,000 hours to construct the building. Edwin Lopez, electric shop supervisor, and his team put nearly 900 hours into the construction of the building.

"The shops' supervisors, Edwin and Mike, were always a step ahead of the workers with material and ideas, so there was no lapse in work or any down times waiting on material," said Lovell FHCC Facility Operations Specialist Derrik Heinzen.

Another individual who was a main contributor to the completion of the project was Lovell FHCC Carpenter Thomas Arndt. Arndt oversaw many aspects of the

construction, including building design, planning the physical location, groundwork preparations and coordinating with other trades to accomplish any necessary tasks. Facility Management at Lovell FHCC currently has six in-house shops including electrical, carpenter/paint, AC/refrigerator, and a service unit. Kennedy stated that considering the purpose of Building 33, the completion of the project was a crucial step and utilizing FHCC's in-house expertise was extremely beneficial..

"The fact that we did this job in-house, we did not waste time soliciting, awarding bids, and building packages," Heinzen said. "This usually adds six months to a year onto a time frame." Some future goals for Building 33 that are currently under development include expanding the swab testing for Lovell FHCC staff as well. Another consideration is potentially utilizing the drive-thru for mass patient vaccinations once the COVID-19 vaccine is available to larger numbers of people. In the long run, Building 33 may become an even bigger factor in deploying the vaccine and keeping patients and staff members safe, Kennedy said. This could not be possible without the work of Lovell FHCC's in-house shops and the joint effort to limit the spread of COVID-19.

